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UNCLAS E F T O SECTION 01 OF 02 THE HAGUE 003039

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STATE FOR AC/CB, NP/CBM, VC/CCB, L/ACV, IO/S
SECDEF FOR OSD/ISP
JOINT STAFF FOR DD PMA-A FOR WTC
COMMERCE FOR BIS (GOLDMAN)
NSC FOR CHUPA
WINPAC FOR PEASE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/10/2013

TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [CWC](#)

SUBJECT: CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC): MEETINGS WITH
TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT ON IT ISSUES

- [11.](#) (U) This is CWC-134-03.
- [12.](#) (U) Del reps met on 24 November 2003 with OPCW Technical Secretariat (TS) Administration Division head Herb Shultz and

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Information Support Branch head Greg Linden to relay U.S. concern regarding the pace of the TS effort to achieve a working digital information technology (IT) system. The system would include TS acceptance of States Parties' electronic submissions of their industrial data declarations, TS provision to States Parties' redacted data declarations in

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electronic format, and TS ability to store, protect, and manipulate digital information it obtains.

- [13.](#) (U) Del reps relayed Washington's concern that TS implementation of electronic data processing and analysis of data declarations was projected to take two years and queried ways that the work might be completed more expeditiously. Reps inquired whether increased funding or provision of "cost-free" experts would speed the process. Shultz and Linden responded that at this point, additional resources would not necessarily speed the process; the TS effort was exactly where it needed to be. They promised to reconsider whether additional resources might advance the project more quickly and advise Del reps accordingly.

- [14.](#) (U) Shultz and Linden reviewed the history of the CTFS/RDBMS development effort, summarized why the proposed additional time/effort was necessary, and discussed why additional resources may not be the answer. They noted that four ISB personnel are dedicated to this effort, and about the same number of staff are dedicated to the TS' contractor's efforts in Washington, noting that this level of effort put the CTFS/RDBMS integration effort at the top of ISB's task list.

- [15.](#) (U) Shultz and Linden noted that part of Linden's initial task after he joined the OPCW earlier this year was to bring into the process senior Verification and International Cooperation Divisions managers (Horst Reeps, Carlos Trentadue, Magda Bauta), as well as other potential future TS users. ISB personnel worked with them to determine data and analytic needs, to co-opt them in the development process so that the software developed by ISB meets TS users' needs and is not ignored. They noted that for the first time in OPCW history, TS users are engaged in the requirements end and are supportive of ISB's effort. Their input has changed the RDBMS functionality requirements, software on which TS development ceased around 1999. Users' required capabilities include UDOC site selection, verification reporting, and other cross-TS tasks.

- [16.](#) (U) Shultz and Linden noted that the development effort is an incremental process, and functionality will be brought on line as it becomes available; the TS won't wait until everything is completed to begin its advertising and marketing efforts. Indeed, they expect that an EDIT/RDBMS testbed will be available for demonstration to interested delegations and TS units in mid-January. Linden also noted that the TS could accept electronic data submissions now, but they would have to be printed off and data entry clerks re-enter the data into the current ACCESS databases. The TS currently does not have the capability to receive and securely store large amounts of digital data. Linden also promised to provide Del reps a short summary of the tasks, costs, and timelines envisaged.

- [17.](#) (U) Del reps noted that the U.S. needs to be able to submit electronic declarations as soon as possible, and to receive redacted declarations of other SPs in electronic format. The TS needs to be able to manipulate digital data in order to minimize clerical errors resulting from data

entry as well as to be better able to analyze declarations to get a more complete picture of chemical activities relevant to the Convention. Linden responded that it might be possible to provide redacted declarations in an adobe-type format, pages of text that would be machine searchable, as a first step. Del reps welcomed the idea, and encouraged the TS to provide more details.

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18. (SBU) Del reps discussed the problem of the U.S. footprint on the software development effort. Shultz re-emphasized the existing suspicions of other delegations and non-U.S. TS personnel regarding the U.S. effort and the importance of the TS being able to sell the integrated system as a TS product. Del reps, Shultz and Linden agreed to minimize the apparent U.S. engagement on the issue by having monthly lunches offsite where Linden and Shultz would provide del reps updates on status and problem areas, probably beginning in mid-January 2004, after the massive TS software upgrade and data migrations are completed.

19. (SBU) In a short conversation on 2 December, Linden advised Del rep that he had drafted the short memo requested by the del reps summarizing TS plans and timelines for integrating the CTFS (renamed EDIT within the TS), the RDBMS, and security shell, and introducing the new TS capabilities to both the TS and States Parties. Rather than providing it to only the U.S. delegation, the DDG Brian Hawtin requested that the document be published as a formal TS document, to begin the TS campaign to advise States Parties of its plans regarding electronic industry data submissions and the associated timelines. The document is still under review and will be issued in the next few weeks.

110. (U) At the request of AC/CB, Del rep set up a short meeting with Shultz and Linden on the margins of EC-36. AC/CB rep relayed its support for Linden's efforts. Linden welcomed a VC/CCB suggestion that the TS ask the regional groups to provide volunteers to submit electronic industrial data declarations once the TS is ready to test its new system. VC/CCB also raised the issue of States Parties that independently developed their own read/write software for making electronic industry declarations and asked Linden whether ISB was considering developing software interfaces for the TS system in these instances. Linden cited his concern regarding a recent meeting with the facilitator on the Declarations Handbook (Ruck - Germany), noting that the software developers had been unaware that declaration formats could still change and emphasizing the severe impact on timelines such changes would have for the TS software development effort. Linden cited his concern regarding a recent meeting with the facilitator on the Declarations Handbook (Ruck - Germany), noting that the software developers had been unaware that declaration formats could still change and emphasizing the severe impact on timelines such changes would have for the TS software development effort. (Note: Subsequently, Commerce rep noted that Ruck has been instructed not to tinker with declaration formats--specifically the 'tabular' formats--until the CTFS was in place. Ruck is addressing how States Parties input data into specific fields, not changing which fields would need to have data entered.)

111. (U) Ito sends.
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